

Remarks and Telephone Interview Summary

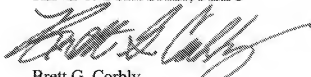
In response to the non-final Office Action issued October 5, 2009, Applicant has amended claim 3 to include "at least one connector." This addresses the Examiner's rejection of claims 3, 4, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant is subsequently filing a Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief to further address the other rejections in the Action.

Also, on November 19, 2009, Applicant's counsel participated in a telephone interview with Examiner Alvin Grant and Supervisory Examiner Joseph Hail to discuss the outstanding Office Action mailed October 5, 2009.

During the telephone interview, Applicant's counsel noted many distinctions between the pending claims and U.S. Patent Nos. Re. 31,095 to Tschudy (the "'095 Patent") and 6,226,832 to McCormick (the "'832 Patent"). Moreover, Applicant's counsel noted that the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the '095 and '832 Patents. Applicant's counsel noted that the Action fails to identify specific portions of the '095 and '832 Patents that allegedly teach or suggest the limitations of the pending claims. Although the Examiners could not provide an identification of where all of the limitations of the pending claims are taught or suggested by the '095 and '832 Patents, they refused to withdraw the rejections to the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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